Global assessments

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Background information

- Assessment / evaluation requirements in the European Commission
- Assessments in Eurostat / statistics
Assessments/evaluations implemented - outside the EU

- Global assessments
  - 2000-2003: Bulgaria, Estonia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Northern Cyprus
  - 2001: Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
  - 2002-2005: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania
  - 2008 - 2012: Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tadzhikistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro
  - 2013-2014: Tunisia
Assessments/evaluations implemented - outside the EU (2)

- Peer reviews
  - Focus on compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice
  - 2010-2013: Albania, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey
  - 2012: Palestine
  - Planned: Jordan
Assessments/evaluations implemented - outside the EU (3)

- Sector reviews – as in-depth assessments of a specific statistical area
- Started in 2014
  - National accounts - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
  - Labour statistics - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan (planned Israel)
  - Business statistics – Montenegro (planned Belarus, Moldova, Albania, Serbia)
  - Migration statistics - Armenia
Assessments/evaluations implemented - inside the EU

• Peer reviews

  • Focus on compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice
  • 1. round in 2005-2008 – review of principles 1-6 and 15 (institutional environment)
  • 2. round in 2013-2015 – review of all principles, focus on weaknesses and improvement recommendations
Reasons for requesting an assessment

• To obtain the state-of-play of official statistics in a country

• To evaluate achievements, in relation to set benchmarks like the UN FPOS/ESCoP and EU statistical standards

• To support the NSI in strengthening its position and coordinating role in the NSS

• To support the NSI in further enhancing a sound legal and institutional framework for the NSS

• To promote official statistics and the need for good quality statistics in the country

• To help developing priorities, planning and allocating resources

• To guide partners in the design of cooperation programmes

only upon request of a country
Challenges faced

• Some countries did not see the benefits of assessments at the beginning

• Overcoming the initial scepticism – assessments are a tool to identify improvements

• Finding the right type of assessments most fitting for a country (GA, PR or Snapshot)
Benefits of assessments

- Comprehensive external, objective assessment of the statistical system can be used for:
  - Requesting donor support
  - Improve credibility towards other government institutions
  - Improve image inside the public administration
  - Develop strategies, action plans based on the assessment
- Promotion of quality culture
- Structured list of improvement recommendations
Follow-up of the assessments

• Assessment is accompanied by recommendations for improvements (global assessments, sector reviews) or improvement actions (peer reviews)

• GA/SR: list of improvement actions based on the recommendations

• Annual monitoring on the implementation of improvement actions by Eurostat

• Reports on the implementation of improvement actions
Recommendations

• All assessments carried out - very useful (countries changed status, gained more independence, got support for the revision of the statistical law, acquired assistance programmes, got better access to administrative data sources, etc.)

• Various ways of implementing assessments is possible (e.g. fill out the self-assessment questionnaire as a first test)

• Snapshot tool is a lighter alternative
The Snapshot tool

• An alternative (self-assessment based)
• Based on the Eurostat quality framework
• Quick, simple, user-friendly
• Gives an overall assessment of the NSS
  • 5 infrastructure topics: country strategy for statistics, organization of the NSS, adequacy of resources, determinants of the data quality, relations with users
  • 16 statistical sectors with questions on the infrastructure and indicators
• Identifies state-of-play with a traffic light system to highlight areas of improvement
Conclusions

• Experience: appreciation of the support given

• It is not about finding mistakes + shortcomings, it is not about ranking countries

• It is about improving and finding support

• Good practices from other countries compiled in a handbook available for everyone

• Success story
Availability of reports

• For enlargement countries:

• For ENP countries:

• For Central Asian countries:
  • [http://www.unece.org/statcoop/ga.html](http://www.unece.org/statcoop/ga.html)